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Malayan Communists' Secret Weapon

By MICHAEL DAVIDSON
KUALA LUMPUR.—The Chinese fair for the esoteric, nurtured among the upper classes through centuries of intrigue and treachery, and among the lower in the Secret Societies, whose constant threat to person and property has for ages been taken for granted in China, provides Malaya's Communists with an instrument which the less subtle organizers of the war against them do not possess.

If one reads in the papers that a "Communist supporter" has been arrested in Malaya, it means that the police have happened upon a member of the Min Yuen or "Organized Masses," a member, that is, of a Secret Society which has cells in every town and village, and which is more important than the armed terrorists themselves. For without the Min Yuen, the Communist Army and Party could not exist; it feeds them, finds them money and recruits and tells them what the Government is up to. When Sir Henry Gurney, the High Commissioner, was murdered last October, it was certainly the Min Yuen which told the terrorists of his plans. It is a rubber planter or a squad of police is ambushed, ten to one the Min Yuen gave the information.

Difficult Detection
Root out the members of this Secret Society, who may be respected shopkeepers, hard-working fappers, cafe waiters, minor government servants or outwardly submissive squatters, and the Malayan Races Liberation Army must collapse for want of sustenance. But that is a much more difficult job than the discovery and destruction of a bunch of terrorists in the jungle.

In the Min Yuen the Chinese element of conspiracy and saboteur power is neatly turned by the Communists to their ends; while the principle of violence which lurks behind the flowery names of all Chinese Secret Societies ensures that a man or woman, once in the organization, will not dare get out of it. Secrecy and anonymity are the keys to its elusiveness; its cells are rarely in touch with each other; its couriers meet only at a given landmark in the jungle; its rigidly selected local leaders have no contact with the Party other than through chosen officials placed towards the bottom of the Party hierarchy.

Its members are not members of the Party; they go through the day like law-abiding citizens, and perform their furtive chores for the Communists imperceptibly. Of course they take risks, like the little Chinese woman I saw

DOYEN OF CONSULAR CORPS LIES IN STATE



M. Rene Neuville, French Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul General, who died in Jerusalem on Monday, lies in state among his many orders and decorations at the French Consulate.

Readers' Letters

PAINT SAVES MONEY
To the Editor of THE POST
Sir,—With reference to Dr. Joseph's speech before the Journalists' Association and his remark that he was "very much impressed by the sight of a Liverpool railway station which had not been painted for 12 years," I would make the following remarks:

Although it seems to be a paradox that economizing on materials or capital can lead, under certain circumstances, to definite waste, let me exemplify this:—
(1) The investment in steel structures is usually of such magnitude that economy dictates a method of protection which is effective against rusting. The most common method of preserving these structures is by means of paint.
(2) With regard to the maintenance of paint coatings, it is generally agreed that the most economical practice is to repair before the coats are dangerously attacked inasmuch as the expensive problem of recoating costs more than the cost of painting.

THEATRE NOTES
Shakespeare and Schizophrenia
Oh! "The Winter's Tale." By William Shakespeare. Directed by Michael Mac Owen. Castings by Moshe Mokady, arranged by Raphael Eliaz.
Nothing in our previous experience of the Ohel could have prepared us for the delightful production of "The Winter's Tale." This is one of the Shakespearean plays which is seldom produced successfully on the stage. Last year there was a surprisingly successful production in London with John Gielgud both directing and playing the leading role. That was somewhat of a theatrical rarity. Now along comes the Ohel to repeat the phenomenon under the expert and imaginative direction of the British director, Michael Mac Owen.
"The Winter's Tale" is a combination of a fairy tale and a highly realistic study in schizophrenia. The play must cast its spell of beauty and poetry if one is to accept the jealous rages of Leontes, the storms on the "seacoast of Bohemia," oracular decrees direct from Apollo, and a queen hidden for 18 years in the king's palace without his knowledge. But if the spell has been cast, everything falls beautifully into place. The furies of the weak and vacillating king, the noble and beautiful queen who is magically alive, the rescue of the lovely Perdita and her love for Florizel, the simple shepherds and the roughish Antiochus all make perfect sense.
Mr. Mac Owen did a really splendid job of casting. He

ALERT SWISS KEEP RIFLES AT HOME

To most people Switzerland is a land of snow-capped Alps where sturdy mountaineers divide their time between tending their dairy herds and making watches. But to the military planners of the world the outstanding fact about Switzerland is that it can put in the field in 48 hours the largest and best-trained army in Western Europe.
Every Swiss adult male is a soldier. "Our army is in the home," is the way an official of the Defence Ministry put it. The Swiss soldier keeps his full equipment, including his rifle and 48 rounds of ammunition, at home.
The soldier is required to shoot 24 rounds a year, but this is minimal, for on every day off, thousands of Swiss gather for shooting contests.
Mobilization is a matter of hours. First comes the so-called "personal mobilization." This simply means that the Swiss citizen takes off his civilian clothes, puts on his uniform, and gets out his weapon and ammunition.
He then goes to his mobilization point, which, as likely as not, is one of the thousands of strong points, block houses, or underground fortifications which guard a pass, railroad or bridge. These installations are always stocked with food, ammunition and the appropriate heavy weapons. Powerful anti-tank obstacles are sunk in the highways at strategic points all over Switzerland, and can be raised at a moment's notice.

Four-Month Training
At the age of 20, every able-bodied male gets four months of compulsory basic training. Then, until the age of 30, he must take a three-week refresher course every year. He remains in the reserve, subject to instant call, until the age of 60, at which time his rifle becomes his personal property. At any given moment some 150,000 trained men are in uniform under this programme. All are armed with modern equipment, most of it bought from the United States. The 10,000 maintenance men, too, could change their clothes on an hour's notice.
All in all Switzerland could call out about 15 divisions. All are mixed divisions with their own transport and heavy weapons. There is a tactical force of about 500 fighter and fighter-bomber planes, roughly half American P-51 Mustangs, and half British Vampire jets. The Swiss have no bombers. Switzerland is spending more than a third of its national budget on defence in a regular appropriation each year in a special three-year drive.

Stable Point
All this means just two things to the world's military men — on both sides. A determined mass attack by a major power could presumably knock out Switzerland, although it would be a costly operation. But to occupy the country would be well-nigh impossible. With the entire country superbly equipped for guerrilla resistance, with every man a trained and well-equipped mountain fighter, and with thousands of prepared strong points which a few men could hold against hundreds, the cost would be prohibitive.
To the planners of the West this means that in any land operations in Europe north of the Alps their right flank is secure. It will never be a jumping off place or route of encirclement or surprise attack. — (NYHT)

HOLLYWOOD'S GIFT FROM EUROPE

The most exciting news in Hollywood this year is beautiful, 19-year-old Italian import Pier Angeli. Already winner of the Venice International Film Prize, she is rapidly heading for Hollywood Awards. After you read this candid story of the girl behind the celebrity, you won't want to miss her on the screen! In the

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MUSICAL DIARY

UNDER the auspices of the Cultural Department of Histadrut, a male vocal quartet (M. Adler, A. Lewi, Z. Navi, S. Grinberg) was formed recently on the initiative of Dr. Tennen, who also trained the group. The promising ensemble has already appeared in public a number of times offering a preclassical programme of vocal compositions by Gasterdi, H. Schütz, an ensemble from Saint-Saens' "Samson et Delila," and a vocal arrangement from Dvorak's symphony "From the New World."

Haim Alexander was the winner of the 1951 Robinson prize for his "Ein Gev" Cantata and of the 1952 Zamir Prize for the best chorale which will have its world premiere at the International Choral meeting in Israel in August this year. Furthermore he was one of the winners of the New York Park Avenue synagogue scroll for new liturgical music. Unfortunately in the "New York Times" news item quoted in this column on June 8 his name was omitted.

Eli Goren, new leader of the London Mozart Players, has appeared recently in symphony concerts at the Royal Festival Hall. He is also a member of the Melos Ensemble, a chamber music group.

THE JEWISH CHRONICLE
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NEW HEBREW and ENGLISH Courses
will be opened on Tuesday, July 1, at the "KADIMAH" School of Languages, 74 Rehov Ben Yehuda, Tel. Aviv.
HEBREW: 1. Intensive course for beginners from 10 a.m. - 12 noon; 2. For Beginners: 7-9 p.m.; 3. For Advanced: 6-8 p.m.
ENGLISH: For advanced is the morning and evening hours.
Intensive English courses for PUPILS of ELEMENTARY and SECONDARY SCHOOLS during the 2 months summer vacation. Tuition during the morning and afternoon hours.
Information and registration: Today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1-5 p.m.

Pellet in London
THE Times' (London) music critic writes about Mr. Frank Pellet's clavier recital at Clugmore Hall on June 3:
"(This recital), divided between Bach's Goldberg Variations on the harpsichord and the sixth book of Bartok's Mikrokosmos on the piano, was not an occasion for 'everyman,' though a considerable occasion for the earnest musician. Imaginative insight, demonstrated in phrasing, in judiciously varied tempi, and in registration, enabled him to reveal the striking individuality of each of Bach's variations so as to hold the listener engrossed throughout the whole of what is sometimes a devilishly long hour, and when it came to Bartok's brittle sonorities and taut rhythms, his sense of style was as evident as his sturdy technique."

Y.M.C.A.
Jerusalem, has pleasure in announcing a **PIANO & VIOLIN CONCERT** on Friday, June 27 at 8.30 p.m. with
Dahia Sternberg, pianist
Mordechai Cohen, violinist
The programme includes works by Bach, Ravel, Debussy, Mozart and Cesar Franck.
The concert will take place in the Auditorium. Entrance free. The public is invited.

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Unemployment Danger At Month's End

TEL AVIV, Tuesday.—The danger of an increase in unemployment at the end of this month, when seasonal work on vegetable growing terminates, was voiced by the Post tonight by Mr. M. Gersberg, Secretary-General of the Central Labour Exchange.
The average number of persons registered as seeking work at labour exchanges is about 8,000. At the end of the citrus season an additional 12,000 were expected, but the number rose to only 7,500 last month since many persons employed on citrus picking and packing found temporary work in vegetable gardens.
Mr. Gersberg pointed out that as the development budget has not yet been passed by the Knesset, money was not available to provide work for those who would be unemployed in July.